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Report of the Secretary-General on the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), by which the Council requested me to submit reports every 90 days on the implementation of that resolution, including on the restoration and respect of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, as well as on the humanitarian situation in the country. The present report covers major developments since my last oral report of 5 June 2012 and my last regular report of 17 July 2012 on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) (S/2012/554).

II. Restoration and respect of constitutional order

A. Political situation

1. Overview of the political situation in the country

2. The political situation in Guinea-Bissau continued to be characterized by deep divisions, particularly among political and civil society actors, with respect to the transitional arrangements and how to achieve full restoration of constitutional order in the country following the 12 April 2012 military coup. While some political actors, including the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the largest party in Parliament, continued to reject the Transitional Government as the legitimate governing authority, others such as the Party for Social Renewal (PRS) fully acknowledged the legitimacy of the current transitional arrangements. In this context, national stakeholders remained deadlocked and were yet to reach a unified position on the way out of the political crisis.

3. These opposing positions have negatively impacted the functioning of the National Assembly. Although the Assembly's fourth ordinary session opened on 29 June, disagreements over the items to be included on the agenda prevented parliamentarians from pursuing their deliberations. The request of PAIGC for the election of a new Speaker and a new First Deputy Speaker to be included on the agenda was opposed by the interim Speaker, Ibraima Sory Djaló, on the basis that such elections would be contingent upon the resignation of the incumbents, respectively the deposed interim President of the Republic and the current

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Transitional President. The ensuing impasse led to the premature adjournment of the session on 6 July.

4. On 20 July, PAIGC published its fourth memorandum related to its position on the transition, which it also submitted to the Transitional President, Serifo Nhamadjo, the Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, General António Indjai, and international partners. In its position paper, PAIGC highlighted the need for the impasse in the National Assembly to be resolved and for an inclusive transitional government to be formed. It also criticized the Transitional Government for not issuing a government programme or disseminating information on how it intended to advance the transitional process. In response, on 2 August, the Transitional Prime Minister, Rui Duarte de Barros, made public the transitional government programme. The programme focuses on four key priorities, namely the holding of general elections; the promotion of justice and the fight against impunity; the fight against organized crime and corruption; and reforms in the defence and security sectors. However, the programme does not provide a timeline for the implementation of these priorities.

5. On 8 August, Transitional President Nhamadjo met with representatives of PAIGC to discuss the party's latest position paper. Shortly thereafter, PAIGC met with parliamentary parties, including PRS, and non-parliamentary parties to discuss, inter alia, the formation of an inclusive government and proposals to break the deadlock in the National Assembly. No consensus could be reached during those discussions. With respect to the PAIGC proposal to form a new government, PRS, which is the main opposition party in Parliament, argued that the current Transitional Government was already inclusive as it contained representatives of all political parties, including PAIGC. PRS also asserted that the demands of PAIGC to lead a new transitional government did not take account of the new balance of power resulting from the 12 April coup d'état. On 28 August, in an encounter with the press, the Transitional President underscored the need for all political forces in the country to participate in the transition. PAIGC has continued its démarches with the Transitional President and other parties on a proposal to review the transitional arrangements and ensure a more inclusive process.

6. Issues related to impunity and justice remained on the national agenda during the reporting period. On 19 July, the Council of Ministers of the Transitional Government discussed the presumed killing of PAIGC parliamentarian Roberto Cachéu, who has been missing since 26 December 2011. Seven officers of the Ministry of the Interior were detained for questioning in relation to the presumed killing on 17 July. Two were released on 19 July. On 20 July, the Office of the Public Prosecutor launched an inquiry into the case. The remaining five detainees were released on 17 August. On 5 September, the Prosecutor General informed UNIOGBIS that investigations into reports of Mr. Cachéu's alleged killing were inconclusive and that the Transitional Government was continuing to investigate his whereabouts. On 12 August, at a meeting with the President of the National Human Rights Commission, the Minister of Justice of the Transitional Government stated that all political assassinations committed in Guinea-Bissau since 2009 would be tried by the end of the transition in May 2013.

7. In a presidential decree issued on 24 August, the Transitional President dismissed the Prosecutor General, Edmundo Mendes, and appointed Abdú Mané, a former head of the Bar Association, as the new Prosecutor General. While some

observers pointed to Mr. Mané's competence and professionalism, others expressed reservations about his impartiality given his former position as legal representative of the families of some of the victims of the 2009 political assassinations. At his swearing-in ceremony on 27 August, the Transitional President stated that the Prosecutor General should "without hate or vengeance bring to justice all those who need to be held accountable without exception". During a meeting with UNIOGBIS on 5 September to review the issue of impunity, the new Prosecutor General called for international technical support to fight impunity in Guinea-Bissau.

8. Although the travel ban imposed by the "Military Command" on 9 May 2012 against 57 individuals, including members of the ousted Government and PAIGC, was lifted on 4 June, concerns remained over the continued infringement of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the country. On 7 July, a consortium of five leading national non-governmental organizations issued a communiqué drawing attention to the continued ban on marches and to the intimidation of political and civil society critics of the transition. The former interim President, Raimundo Pereira, the former Prime Minister, Carlos Gomes Júnior, and the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Djaló Pires, continued to reside abroad as they feared for their security. On 19 July, in an interview with the Portuguese news agency Lusa, the Transitional President stated that they could participate in the forthcoming elections unless there were legal impediments rendering them ineligible. He also indicated that security conditions were in place for their return to Guinea-Bissau. However, in a defiant statement given to the armed forces on 22 August, the Armed Forces Chief of General Staff warned that a possible electoral victory of Mr. Gomes Júnior would not bode well for the armed forces and that the military would not remain with their "arms crossed" if the deposed Prime Minister were to win the elections.

9. Since it took office in May 2012, the Council of Ministers of the Transitional Government has made changes at director level in most ministries, State corporations, institutions and agencies, as well as in local government structures. These changes in Guinea-Bissau's public administration were made despite the assurances by the Transitional Government that it was committed to continuing the State administrative reform policy of the ousted Government. In a note verbale dated 31 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Government informed UNIOGBIS of the appointment of Manuel Maria Monteiro Santos, the current Ambassador to Angola, as the new Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations. On 9 August, the Transitional President issued decrees dismissing Guinea-Bissau's ambassadors to Belgium, China, France, Portugal and the United Nations in New York and appointing Mr. Monteiro Santos as the new Permanent Representative in New York.

2. Efforts by national, regional and international stakeholders towards the restoration and respect of constitutional order

10. During the reporting period, national stakeholders launched several initiatives aimed at the full restoration of constitutional order in the country. On 31 July, the União para a Mudança (UM), a non-parliamentary party, issued a document entitled "Proposal for a solution to the problems that characterize the current political moment in Guinea-Bissau", which advised the Transitional President to hold hearings of political parties in order to form a broad-based government and to facilitate dialogue between PAIGC and PRS. UM also called for the election of a new President and a new first Vice President of the National Assembly in

accordance with the body's procedures. On 17 August, a delegation of UM presented the document to UNIOGBIS and called for the support of the international community for the transitional and electoral processes.

11. Civil society organizations were also active in advocating for progress in restoring constitutional rule in the country. On 13 August, on the occasion of its twenty-first anniversary, the Human Rights League of Guinea-Bissau issued a statement in which it highlighted the urgent need to find a solution to the political crisis based on democracy and the rule of law. The League also stated that peace and national reconciliation would not be achieved as long as impunity persisted in the country. On 30 August, the spokesperson for the Civil Society Movement for Peace, Democracy and Development informed the press about his organization's meetings with political actors and international partners which had highlighted the need to overcome the deadlock in Parliament and facilitate its functioning, as well as the need to take into account the views of PAIGC in the transitional process.

12. In an attempt to engage the international community, the Transitional Government launched a fortnightly forum with international partners on 12 July to discuss issues related to the transitional process. During the 2 August meeting of the forum, the Minister of Finance appealed to international partners to work with the Transitional Government and resume their cooperation with Guinea-Bissau.

13. Meanwhile, my Special Representative continued his consultations with national stakeholders on the need for an inclusive nationally led dialogue aimed at creating a common understanding of the conditions for a successful transition. In this context, from 18 June to the first week of July, he met with parliamentary parties, the Frente Nacional Anti-Golpe (FRENAGOLPE) and representatives of civil society, including religious leaders. National stakeholders welcomed this concept of dialogue, and consultations on its modalities were ongoing.

14. Guinea-Bissau's international partners, particularly the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), continued to be divided over the transitional process. At its forty-first ordinary session, held in Yamoussoukro on 28 and 29 June 2012, the Authority of the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS endorsed the Guinea-Bissau transitional organs and called for the international community to recognize and support the Transitional Government. It also suspended the general sanctions imposed on the country and urged all political actors and civil society to work together to achieve a truly inclusive government in order to ensure a consensual transition.

15. Following the meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 14 July, the African Union released a communiqué in which it encouraged ECOWAS to pursue its efforts, in close coordination with other relevant international actors, notably CPLP, the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union, towards the implementation of the decisions relating to the return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. In the meantime, the membership of Guinea-Bissau in the African Union remained suspended.

16. Following a meeting of its Council of Ministers on 19 July in Maputo, CPLP issued a statement reaffirming its recognition of the deposed elected authorities of Guinea-Bissau. It also reiterated its call for the full restoration of constitutional order and the completion of the presidential electoral process in the country. CPLP

further called for close coordination between the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and CPLP, under the aegis of the United Nations, in establishing a partnership for the stabilization of the country. It pledged to work towards the holding of a high-level meeting to develop a comprehensive and integrated strategy aimed at the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, who attended the CPLP summit meeting of Heads of State and Government on 20 July in Maputo, stated that the European Union would not tolerate more coups in Guinea-Bissau and called for constitutional order to be respected.

17. On 1 August, Mr. Gomes Júnior met with Mr. Barroso in Lisbon where he commended the European Union for opposing the 12 April coup. Mr. Gomes Júnior also attended the meeting of the Africa Committee of the Socialist International held in Praia on 30 and 31 July, in his capacity as President of PAIGC. The Africa Committee has called for the re-establishment of democracy in Guinea-Bissau and urged the international community and regional organizations to act decisively in supporting the prompt return to normal functioning of the democratic institutions of the country.

18. An interparliamentary group from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) visited Guinea-Bissau from 4 to 7 September to foster dialogue with national authorities with a view to supporting the resolution of the crisis. The group also met with international stakeholders, including UNIOGBIS.

19. In continuation of his efforts to encourage the harmonization of the positions of Guinea-Bissau's international partners, my Special Representative commenced fortnightly meetings of international partners in Bissau on 4 June. He also facilitated a meeting with representatives of the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union and PAIGC, at the latter's request, on 15 June. Furthermore, he spearheaded a joint African Union-United Nations mission with the African Union Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau, Ovidio Pequeno, to Cotonou on 26 and 27 August and Abuja from 27 to 29 August. In Cotonou, the mission met the African Union Chairperson, President Boni Yayi of Benin, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Benin. In Abuja, meetings were held with the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security and other senior officials. The Director of the Africa II Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat joined the mission for its discussions with the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa from 2 to 4 September, and with the CPLP leadership in Maputo from 5 to 7 September. My Special Representative also travelled to Lisbon with Mr. Pequeno from 9 to 11 September, to meet with the Portuguese authorities and Guinea-Bissau nationals based in Lisbon, including the deposed interim President and Prime Minister.

20. During its consultations, the mission expressed readiness to facilitate the reactivation of direct dialogue between ECOWAS and CPLP and highlighted the need for dialogue to arrive at a unified position. Both ECOWAS and CPLP expressed readiness to engage in dialogue. The CPLP leadership said it intended to engage in "frank and direct dialogue" with ECOWAS to identify common ground to enable both partners to work together with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. However, CPLP reiterated its non-recognition of the current transitional arrangements and the need for inclusive political participation by all national actors, including those deposed in April 2012. For its part, ECOWAS stressed that the basis for harmonization should be acceptance of the ongoing transitional arrangements.

3. Efforts towards a democratic electoral process

21. During the period under review, preparations for the general elections within the 12-month transitional period remained a major concern of national stakeholders. In its 20 July position paper, PAIGC criticized the Transitional Government for failing to inform the population of the steps required to advance the electoral process, in particular the extension of the mandate of the legislature, the conclusion of the electoral mapping process, the revision of electoral legislation to provide for the conduct of biometric voter registration, and the mobilization of financial resources for the electoral process.

22. On 19 July, Transitional President Nhamadjo announced in a press interview that general elections would take place in April 2013 and that the President-elect would take office in May 2013. On 18 August, the Transitional Government disbursed CFAF 30 million (approximately $60,000) to facilitate the completion of the electoral boundary mapping for the two remaining regions (Cacheu and Biombo) and the Bissau Autonomous Sector. The process, which started in 2011, had been delayed owing to lack of funds. While the Transitional Governments' contribution does not fully cover the costs needed to complete the mapping, the Transitional Government announced on 5 September that the exercise would be completed before the end of September 2012.

23. At the request of my Special Representative, an electoral advisory mission visited Guinea-Bissau from 22 to 31 August and listened to national and international interlocutors. In its discussions with partners, the mission pointed to the need to resolve political differences concerning technical issues that are important for a credible election. At the general level, preparations for the legislative and presidential elections have been hampered by a lack of coordination among the different agencies with responsibility for key electoral tasks. At a meeting between agencies charged with electoral responsibilities and international partners on 5 September, facilitated by the United Nations Development Programme at the request of the Transitional Government, the latter presented a timeline for the electoral process and draft budgets for the conduct of the legislative and presidential elections (€5.5 million), for the biometric voter registration exercise (estimated at €19 million) and for operational costs of the Technical Bureau for Support to the Electoral Process (€6.5 million).

24. During the meeting, international partners highlighted their concerns regarding the feasibility, credibility and sustainability of the electoral process. They also stressed the need for an inclusive dialogue in which all strata of society and political actors would be engaged, leading to the building of consensus around key issues, and raised concerns about the impasse in the National Assembly and the need to amend the electoral law. The Minister of Territorial Administration informed participants that an interministerial commission was working on a consolidated proposal to amend the electoral law to provide for the forthcoming presidential and legislative electoral processes.

B. Security situation

25. The security situation in the country remained stable. Guinea-Bissau troops are not visible on the streets, a sign that they have returned to their barracks as required by Security Council resolution 2048 (2012). However, although the "Military

Command" has formally returned power to civilian authorities, allegations continued to be made by national stakeholders of interference by the military leadership in the country's political affairs. Remarks by the military leadership on political issues have reportedly reinforced perceptions that the military still exercises power. It therefore remains critical for steps to be taken to reform the defence and security sector to ensure that military forces remain subordinate to civilian authorities.

26. On 23 August, the Armed Forces Chief of General Staff began a series of meetings with defence and security personnel in the east, south and north military commands. He cited the ousted Government's appeal for a peacekeeping force as justification for the coup d'état and accused the deposed Prime Minister of paying unidentified officers to stage a counter-coup. He also stated that there would be no peace in the barracks if Mr. Gomes Júnior returned to the country, and raised concern about the fate of the military if the deposed Prime Minister were to be elected.

27. ECOWAS and Guinea-Bissau's authorities initiated the drafting of a series of agreements on security sector reform. The agreements are expected to define the specific activities and projects listed in the ECOWAS/CPLP security sector reform road map, including the rehabilitation of military barracks in the country, the launching of the pension fund for retired military and police personnel, and training modules for the armed forces. The implementation of these projects is expected to continue beyond the transitional period. The ECOWAS Special Representative in Bissau has stressed to UNIOGBIS his organization's wish for cooperation on the implementation of the road map alongside the European Union, CPLP, UNIOGBIS and other interested international partners.

28. On 25 July, the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) launched joint daily patrols with the Public Order Police. The ECOWAS force, whose strength stands at 510 personnel, is currently comprised of formed police units, led by a military field commander, and assisted by military staff officers, a medical corps and an engineering corps. An additional 118 military personnel from Nigeria will be deployed in the coming weeks to enable ECOMIB to reach its planned full capacity of 629. The contributing countries to ECOMIB are Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. The engineering corps has started to rehabilitate buildings to be used by the ECOMIB contingent. The medical corps is providing health services to ECOMIB personnel and civilians in Bissau.

29. Organized criminal groups engaged in international drug trafficking continued to take advantage of the prevailing unstable situation in Guinea-Bissau and the unchallenged use of the country as a transit point. The operational capacity of law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system continued to be weak, resulting in limited law enforcement capacity and very low interdiction, especially in regions outside Bissau. In the meantime, owing to the political context in Guinea-Bissau and the scarcity of resources, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has suspended the delivery of technical assistance to the country within the framework of the joint West Africa Coast Initiative.

III. Socioeconomic and humanitarian situation

30. The Transitional Government regularly paid civil servants' salaries, partially thanks to budgetary support provided by ECOWAS ($2 million), Nigeria ($10 million) and WAEMU ($1.5 million).

31. Support from the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank continued to be suspended. The World Bank dispatched an assessment mission to Guinea-Bissau from 27 to 30 August to review the situation, during which it informed international partners that it planned to recommend the resumption of disbursements on its existing programmes. The Peacebuilding Fund has also maintained the suspension of all its programmes in direct support of the Government, with the exception of the reallocation of $391,000 to an income generation project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the urgent purchase of seeds for 8,000 vulnerable families.

32. WAEMU and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) have continued with their portfolios of development projects agreed with the previous Government. BOAD has pledged $7 million in emergency food security support. The European Union, for its part, continued to provide direct project assistance to the population.

33. The transitional authorities have embarked on a campaign aimed at raising awareness among international leaders of Guinea-Bissau's needs. In that context, the Transitional Minister for Foreign Affairs, Faustino Embali, represented Guinea-Bissau at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in Beijing on 21 and 22 July. The Transitional President attended the summit meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Saudi Arabia on 14 and 15 August and the Sixteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran from 29 to 30 August. On his return from Tehran, Transitional President Nhamadjo announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran had agreed to a credit line of $20 million and donations of $3 million, $1 million and $600,000 to cover the cost of tractors and improvement of road infrastructure; medicines for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; and ambulances, respectively.

34. In June, the World Food Programme (WFP) carried out a rapid food security assessment in Biombo, Oio and Quinara regions which concluded that the 2011/12 crop production was less than that of the previous agricultural season in most communities, mainly owing to poor rainfall and limited farming inputs. On 15 August, FAO, WFP and key non-governmental organizations noted that price increases for basic foodstuffs were affecting Bissau and that it was too early to assess the impact of the emergency seed distribution project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.

35. An initial estimate of the cashew nut crop in June pointed to a reduction of about 30 to 40 per cent against the record production of 2011. Exporters have been unable to sell some of their stock owing to falling international prices. These disruptions may have negative consequences for the revenue of exporters, thus affecting their livelihoods, as well as for the State coffers as cashew nuts accounted for 90 per cent of the country's export revenue in 2011.

36. The increase in the number of cases of acute diarrhoea, particularly in the cities of Bissau and Quinhamel, has forced the Epidemic Control Committee under the Ministry of Health to meet twice per week starting on 1 September. The Committee has established working groups to address specific issues in case a cholera epidemic is confirmed in the near future. In the meantime, various interventions are under way at community level, particularly in Bissau, with a special focus on information and sensitization of the population. A number of partners are procuring and prepositioning supplies for a minimal immediate and prompt response. Additional funding will be required to ensure an adequate and comprehensive response.

IV. Travel ban

37. Although the Guinea-Bissau Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, General António Indjai, is banned from travelling outside the country in accordance with Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), he reportedly travelled to Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, transiting through Senegal, to attend the meetings of the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff held on 25 July and 18 August respectively. The Transitional Government has argued that these trips took place in furtherance of peace efforts in Guinea-Bissau and in the subregion.

V. Observations

38. I am concerned by the lack of progress towards the full restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau in compliance with Security Council resolution 2048 (2012) following the 12 April military coup d'état. The situation is exacerbated by the divisions, both among national stakeholders and among international partners, over the legitimacy of the current Transitional Government. In the meantime, the humanitarian and socioeconomic needs of the population continue to grow.

39. It is therefore imperative that the Transitional Government work closely with all segments of Guinea-Bissau society, including political parties and civil society organizations, to achieve a consensual, inclusive and nationally owned transition process, as called for by ECOWAS and the Security Council. In this regard, my Special Representative and his office will continue their efforts to promote a genuine dialogue among national stakeholders. I urge the people of Guinea-Bissau, in particular the Transitional Government, political leaders, civil society organizations and religious leaders, to take action to agree on a road map with clear benchmarks to ensure the full restoration of constitutional order in the country.

40. I am also concerned that regional, continental and international organizations remain divided over the transitional arrangements and on how best to move towards the full restoration of constitutional rule in Guinea-Bissau. While ECOWAS has endorsed the Transitional Government and called for the international community to support it, CPLP continues to call for the reinstatement of the elected authorities overthrown in April 2012. This is contributing to the stagnation of the political crisis in Guinea-Bissau. In this context, the harmonization of the positions of these two organizations, which are major partners of Guinea-Bissau, is of paramount importance. The joint mission of the African Union and the United Nations was an

initial step in helping to bridge the differences between ECOWAS and CPLP. My Special Representative will continue to work with both organizations to help them harmonize their positions and act in unison to promote the interests of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

41. The political impasse in Guinea-Bissau has brought the country to a virtual standstill. The operational capacity of the Transitional Government is reduced by paralysis in the National Assembly, which is expected to pass legislation necessary for the functioning of State institutions and for the conduct of a democratic electoral process. The impasse in the National Assembly is a central obstacle to the electoral process. In this context, I urge the Transitional Government to redouble its efforts to resume the functioning of the National Assembly and facilitate a speedy approval of the electoral reform package. I also encourage it to take prompt action to consolidate the work of the different election management agencies. I strongly encourage all political actors to work together, including with the Transitional Government, to contribute towards meeting this objective. In this regard, I have requested my Special Representative to intensify his efforts to support dialogue among political actors with a view to ensuring that the National Assembly can play its constitutional role.

42. The main objective of the political transition should be to return the country to full constitutional order in the shortest possible time frame. However, I am concerned that questions have emerged about the commitment of the Transitional Government to hold the elections within the allocated transitional time frame.

43. Guinea-Bissau's political actors have often cited exclusion as a key reason for political instability. I therefore welcome the decision of PAIGC to engage with the Transitional President and the Transitional Government, as the party has a major contribution to make to a sound and peaceful transition. All stakeholders must feel that they have a stake in the whole process, which should culminate in credible and transparent general elections, after which national stakeholders would build a vision for a society where good governance and rule of law are the hallmarks of restored constitutional order.

44. The elections are a cornerstone of democracy, but are not a panacea to overcome the deep divisions in the country and ensure sustainable peace and stability. The Government that will emerge from the elections must therefore work with national stakeholders to develop a vision for a common future in a collaborative and broad-based manner that embraces all walks of life, urban and rural populations, as well as the Guinea-Bissau diaspora.

45. While efforts are under way to ensure credible and transparent elections, I call upon political and military actors in particular to act within the framework of the rule of law and to respect the rules of democratic elections. The Guinea-Bissau electorate has an exemplary record of exercising its political rights in a peaceful and orderly manner. All stakeholders, including political, military and civil society actors, should consider developing and subscribing to a binding code of conduct before, during and after the elections, which would help reduce electoral tensions and would contribute to a peaceful electoral process.

46. In compliance with Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), the United Nations is also prepared to work with national and international stakeholders to develop "a comprehensive integrated strategy with concrete measures aimed at

implementing security sector reform, political and economic reforms, combating drug-trafficking and fighting impunity".

47. I commend the staff of UNIOGBIS, under the leadership of my Special Representative, Joseph Mutaboba, and the entire United Nations country team, as well as members of the broader international community and national and international non-governmental organizations, for their continued contribution to peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau.